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Message Text

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16
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 COME-00 CU-04 PA-04 L-03 EB-11 SCI-06

USIA-15 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CEQ-02 DRC-01

SS-20 PRS-01 NSC-10 (ISO) W
---------- 040814
R 191303Z OCT 73
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8158
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMEMBASSY BERN
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, SENV, SCUL, BIE, GW
SUBJECT: EUROPEAN PARTICIPATION IN SPOKANE 1974
INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION

REF: STATE 206079

1. AS FOLLOW-UP TO SECRETARY DENT'S APPROACH TO
ECONOMICS MINISTER FRIDERICHS, ECON/COMMERCIAL MINISTER
CALLED ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY STEEG OF THE ECONOMICS
MINISTRY OCTOBER 18 AND DREW ON REFTEL TO URGE FRG
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PARTICIPATION IN THE SPOKANE EXPOSITION. WE STRESSED

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THE POLITICAL IMPORTANCE THE USG ATTACHES TO WEST EUROPEAN PARTICIPATION IN THIS EXPOSITION, NOTING THE PRESIDENT'S PERSONAL INTEREST AND THE SEVERAL CABINET-LEVEL REPRESENTATIONS MADE BY THE U.S. WE POINTED OUT THE CRUCIAL NEED TO BREAK THE LOGJAM IN WESTERN EUROPE; IF THE FRG WOULD MAKE THE DECISION TO ATTEND THE EXPOSITION THEN OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES COULD BE EXPECTED TO FOLLOW. WE STRESSED, INTER ALIA, A GROWING WORLDWIDE INTEREST IN THE FAIR, CONTENDING THAT OUR MAJOR ALLIES IN WESTERN EUROPE WERE CONSPICUOUS IN THEIR ABSENCE.

2. ASSISTANT SECRETARY STEEG SAID THAT SHE COULD ONLY RESPOND ON A "TECHNICAL" PLANE; ON THIS BASIS SHE HAD TO REPORT THAT THERE REMAINED VERY LITTLE INTEREST WITHIN THE FRG FOR PARTICIPATION AT SPOKANE. THE INTERIOR MINISTRY, WHICH HAD RESPONSIBILITY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS, HAD CONCLUDED THAT THE EXPOSITION WAS ONLY OF MINOR IMPORTANCE TO ITS ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM AND THAT IT COULD NOT JUSTIFY USING ITS FUNDS FOR FRG PARTICIPATION. GERMAN COMMERCIAL FIRMS HAD ALSO EXPRESSED LITTLE INTEREST IN PARTICIPATION AND CONSEQUENTLY IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO RECOMMEND THAT ECONOMIC MINISTRY FUNDS BE USED TO SUPPORT THE FAIR. SHE MAINTAINED THAT THERE WAS NOT MUCH US COMMERCIAL INTEREST IN THE FAIR EITHER. STEIDLE (DIRECTOR OF OFFICE OF FAIRS) ADDED THAT HE HAD SPOKEN SEVERAL TIMES WITH EXPOSITION PRESIDENT KING COLE ABOUT FRG PARTICIPATION AND HAD CONSIDERED IT CAREFULLY BUT THAT HE COULD NOT JUSTIFY THE EXPENDITURE OF AT LEAST DM 2 MILLION FROM HIS BUDGET FOR THE EXPOSITION. HE HAD BEEN READY TO COMPROMISE BY OFFERING TO ATTEND A SHOW OF SHORTER DURATION BUT THIS HAD NOT BEEN ACCEPTABLE TO THE EXPOSITION ADMINISTRATION.

3. THE ECON/COMMERCIAL MINISTER REITERATED THE POLITICAL IMPORTANCE OF FRG PARTICIPATION AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE FUNDS COULD BE FOUND SOMEWHERE WITHIN THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT.
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4. ASST. SECRETARY STEEG SAID THAT SHE WOULD PROVIDE A FULL REPORT TO ECONOMICS MINISTER FRIDERICHS. UNFORTUNATELY, SHE COULD NOT, ON TECHNICAL GROUNDS, MAKE A FAVORABLE RECOMMENDATION. ANY DECISION TO PARTICIPATE WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE ON POLITICAL GROUNDS AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL.

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5. COMMENT: WE SHALL KEEP TRYING BUT THE OUTLOOK
IS BLEAK.
HILLENBRAND

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Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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